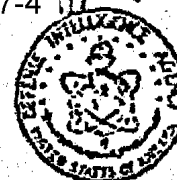


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 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



NSA review completed

[ TB - HK - AB 743 ]

DIA review completed.

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DATE: 24 October 1973  
 TIME: 1700 EDT

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES

REFERENCE: [ ]

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1. GENERAL

a. (S) Fighting has continued in and around Suez City at the southern end of the Canal for several hours past the 0500Z second cease-fire deadline. Israeli forces, claiming major Egyptian violations of the cease-fire, are apparently seeking to complete the encirclement of Egyptian forces on the East Bank in the southern sector and to eliminate all Egyptian opposition in the southern sector of the West Bank.

b. (C) The northern sector of the Egyptian front from Ismailia northwards as well as the entire Syrian front are quiet, with no apparent cease-fire violations occurring.

PREPARED BY: [ ]

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 MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES, SITUATION REPORT #72

## 2. EGYPTIAN FRONT

a. (S/NFD) An Israeli spokesman said that the Egyptian 3d Army attempted four unsuccessful offensive actions on the 24th -- a two-pronged attack towards the Giddi and Mitla Passes in the Sinai, a thrust northward along the East Bank of the Canal, and an attack on the West Bank along the main Cairo-Suez axis. Of the some 200 Egyptian tanks on the East Bank, about half were employed in the drive toward the passes and the remainder fired on Israeli forces on the West Bank. The Egyptian attack on the latter, employing some 125 tanks, was supported by strike aircraft. The Israelis claimed to have downed 14 MIG-21/FISHBEDS during the battle.

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b. (S/NFD) The Israelis, while claiming to be on the defensive have been attempting to consolidate their control of the southern end of the Canal's West Bank by capturing Suez City. According to Cairo Radio, an Israeli tank attack on Suez City was repulsed by "town forces." Israeli seizure of Suez City, adjacent Port Taufiq, and the lines of supply to this area from the west would completely isolate the remainder of the Egyptian 3d Army on the East Bank -- an obvious Israeli goal prior to the arrival of cease-fire observers.

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## 3. SYRIAN FRONT

(U) No significant activity to report.

## 4. OTHER ARAB ACTIVITY

### JORDAN

(S/NFD/NDA/CD) Should Jordanian troops remain in Syria after an effective cease-fire, Amman's intelligence organizations will be mobilized and targeted against Iraqi forces there. An intelligence officer is to be assigned to the 40th Armored Brigade, with the dual mission of counteracting Ba'thist influences among the JAA troops and -- most importantly -- to conduct aggressive intelligence operations against Iraqi forces in the country. King Hussain continues to deny Iraqi forces transit rights through Jordan and insists he will not permit Damascus to station troops or aircraft on Jordanian soil.

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5. SOVIET ACTIVITYa. (S) Ground

[redacted] continue to indicate that there have been no unusual indications of any alert/mobilization.

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6. LATE DEVELOPMENT

(U) Israeli Radio says fighting along the southern sector of the Suez Canal began to decrease in the late afternoon of the 24th. The Israelis have apparently made no progress in taking Suez City, as lines and positions are said to have remained "unchanged" since the 23rd. Meanwhile, UN observers are reported to be en route from Cairo to the Suez front.

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